

Seeking Common Solution to Common Heavy Metals Contaminates Concerns

We live in a mining camp. We have chosen to live in a mining camp. The wages, purchases, taxes paid by mining have a major economic impact on our community. If we use a little common sense, and do not stick our heads in the granulated grant like ostriches in the desert, do not try to ignore the situation, or do not try to sweep it under the rug, we can realize/recognize that there are certain extra ordinary health risks from exposure to heavy metals contaminants common to living in a hard rock heavy metals mining camp. We also can realize/recognize there are things we can do, individually and collectively, to mitigate and minimize the exposure to these heavy metals contaminants if we seek common solutions to common concerns by creating and implementing a holistic community wide hazardous to human health heavy metal contaminants monitoring and control task force and action master plan.

We now have four (4) independent research studies that indicate we have an exposure to heavy metals health risk situation in our community:

Stacie Barry's 2012; "Dissertation" Major Findings: Cancer rates and neurodegenerative rates are higher in Silver Bow County vs. other counties in the state.

Dr. Katie Hailer and associates 2017 study; "Assessing Human Metal Accumulations in an Urban Superfund Site" Major Conclusions of This Study were; - Metals are present in the dust collected in the Greeley Neighborhood and elsewhere in Butte. - Metals are detectable in the larger particulate in the dust blowing into the Greeley Neighborhood and circulating in Butte's air.- The amount of these metals present in particulate, in general, decreases the further away you get from the current mining activity.- Many of these metals are also present, in significantly elevated amounts in people living in Butte. - These metals (most of which can be toxic) have the potential to negatively impact human health.

Suzanne McDermott and others 2018 study; "Population-based mortality data suggests remediation is modestly effective in two Montana Superfund counties" Concluded that; Targeted conditions associated with heavy metal exposure showed mortality ratios were significantly elevated in the two counties compared to all other Montana counties.

S. McDermott, M.K. Hailer and J.R. Lead, 2019 study; "Meconium identifies high levels of metals in newborns from a mining community in the U.S." The study found startling thousand fold differences in the levels of metals in newborn babies' meconium between the Butte group and a South Carolina control group. McDermott and Hailer said the exposures are most likely from the mothers ingesting airborne particles. Asked whether that means the cause of the exposure would be historic mining and smelting pollution or current mining, they declined to speculate. "It's possible it's both," Hailer said.

Much has been done to mitigate and minimize human exposure to these heavy metals contaminants, but these studies indicate there is still much more that needs to be done.

For the past few years the Greeley Neighborhood Community Development Corporation Inc., (GNCDCInc), has been trying to do something about minimizing human exposure to these heavy metals contaminants in our neighborhood, but we have been told over and over again; "You are located outside The District", or "What you are asking for is Not Part of the Scope of our Program or our Authority.

The GNCDCInc, has been advocating for airborne hazardous to human health heavy metals monitoring throughout the Greater Butte Silver Bow area so we can possibly determine from where the heavy metals contamination is coming: From The; Natural Ore Load, Historic Mine Waste, Active Mining and/or all of the above. We have been able to get the Greeley Mining Impact Task Force established with the assistance of

CTEC. This group has been able to bring together many of the major stakeholders associated with the mining impact on the Greeley Neighborhood; past, present, and future.

Now that the "Experts" seem to be willing to use some common sense and at least consider whether or not there is still an unaddressed heavy metals contaminate situation in our community we (The GNCDCInc.) propose that it is time to move the Greeley Mining Impact Task Force concept up a level and develop/create a B-SB Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates Task Force, to create and implement a holistic Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates Monitoring and Controlling Master Plan to deal in a holistic manner with all aspects of the issue of Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates present in our community. As Dr. McDermott implied this is something that should have been done in Butte 25 years ago.

We do not know where these contaminants are coming from; From Natural Ore Deposits, Historic Mine Waste, Active Mining Operations and/or all of the above. But we do know that this is not just an; EPA, DEQ, NRDP, BNRC, B-SB, ARCO, MR, GNCDCInc., remedy, restoration and/or a recontamination problem. This is an EVERY-THING, EVERYBODY'S problem, and we all need to get serious about working together to resolve it.

The GNCDCInc., requested the formation of the Greeley Mining Impact Focus Group. but in that this issue is a community wide concern, we feel that it is time that the Greeley Mining Impact Focus Group should be expanded and moved up to the level of a Butte Silver Bow Community Wide Task Force to create and implement a holistic Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates Monitoring and Controlling Master Plan to deal in a holistic manner with the issue of Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates present in our community.

We (The GNCDCInc.); Do not care about The Fish. We do not care about The Creek. We do care about The Health of the Humans. Therefore The Greeley Neighborhood Development Corporation Inc., has submitted a communication to the B-SB Council of Commissioners requesting; That the Butte-Silver Bow City - County Government's Council of Commissioners request the B-SB Chief Executive Officer, to form a holistic B-SB Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates Task Force, to create and implement a holistic Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates Monitoring and Controlling Master Plan to deal in a holistic manner with the issue of Hazardous to Human Health Heavy Metals Contaminates present in our community.

This communication will come before the B-SB Council of Commissioners on the Regular Meeting Agenda 7:30 pm, December 18, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the B-SB Court House. Only an overwhelming outcry from live bodies of concerned citizens in that Council Chambers on that evening will change the attitude of our Local Government and bring together all the appropriate forces to holistically seek the appropriate common solutions to resolving the common heavy metals concerns of our community.

R. Edward Banderob, President, GNCDCInc.